

Application Serial No. 10/674,193
Reply to Office Action of March 31, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3381

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated March 31, 2006, the Examiner states that Claims 2-13 are pending, Claims 2 and 13 are rejected and Claims 3-12 are objected to. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding Claims 3-12 to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 3 has been amended into independent form. Thus, Claim 3 and dependent Claims 4-12 are now considered allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kamada (US 5,300,012). Claim 13 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 63-32862 U1. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections.

Claims 2 and 13 were previously amended to include the following two features:

- i) *"Disposing ... the second guide unit (or "The second guide unit ... disposed") so that the image receiving paper is fed into the second guide unit with the image receiving paper being bent opposite to a direction of curing of the image receiving paper", and*
- ii) *"disposing the first guide unit ... (or "the first guide unit ... disposed") so that a change in the feeding direction of the image receiving paper from the second guide unit to the first guide unit is opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper".*

As shown in FIG. 1A of the application, the image receiving paper 100 is first wound off from the winding roller. At that time, the paper 100 has a downwardly bent curl. The paper 100 is then fed along the feeding direction to the entrance 5b of the second guide unit 5. The paper 100 is introduced into the path 5a of the second guide unit 5 formed between the opposing plates 8 and 9. The path 5a of the second guide unit 5 is arranged to angle the feeding direction upwardly. Thus, the paper passing through the path 5a is bent opposite to the curling direction, and some of the curl can be removed this point. That is, *"1) disposing ... the second guide unit (or "the second guide unit ... disposed") so that the image receiving paper is fed into the second guide unit with the image receiving paper being bent opposite to a direction of curing of the image receiving paper".*

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The paper passed through the path 5a is next fed to the first guide unit 4. The first guide unit 4 is arranged to angle the feeding direction to reverse the curling direction at corner C so that the paper 100 is bent opposite to the curling direction, and the residual curl can be removed. That is, *"2) disposing the first guide unit ... (or 'the first guide unit ... disposed') so that a change in the feeding direction of the image receiving paper from the second guide unit to the first guide unit is opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper."*

Having such features, the paper 100 can be bent opposite to the curling direction twice. Therefore, comparing to the situation where the paper is bent opposite to the curling direction once, the curl amount to be removed at a time can be reduced, thus the load imparted to the paper can be dispersed, the paper can be smoothly bent, and the curl can be removed completely.

On the contrary, in Kamada (US 5,300,012) and Matsumoto (JP 63-32862), the curl is removed only once.

In Kamada, as shown in FIG. 1, the paper wound off from the roller 11 is bent opposite to the curling direction at the uncurling section 25. However, at the entrance of the uncurl transport path 23, the paper is bent to the same direction as the curling direction as shown by arrow A.

In Matsumoto, as shown in FIG. 1, the paper 4a wound off from the roller 4 is bent opposite to the curling direction at the corner 11a. However, at the entrance of the uncurl transport path, the paper is bent to the same direction as the curling direction at the corner 8a, the same as Kamada.

As described above, and claimed in the present application, the paper is bent opposite to the curling direction twice. However, in the cited references, the paper is first bent to the same direction as the curling direction, and then bent opposite to the curling direction. Therefore, the configuration is different between the claimed invention and the cited references. Further, in the cited references, there is no suggestion to provide the claimed configuration. Therefore, the Applicant does not consider the claimed invention to be anticipated by or obvious from the cited references.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should

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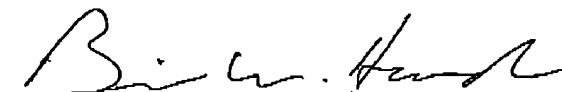
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now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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